Lafayette Historical Society
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TOWN HALL DEDICATION

The Lafayette Town Hall will be dedicated as a city landmark as part of the city's 10th anniversary celebration in October. The Town Hall was built in 1914 with donations of labor and money by the townspeople and it has continued to serve the community ever since. A bronze plaque, provided by the Historical Society, will be placed on the building. Society president, George Wasson, will be master of ceremonies and our speaker will be Father William Abeloe, honorary life member of our Society.

The ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 14, at 12 Noon (following The Horse and Carriage Days parade which begins at 10 am on Mt. Diablo Blvd.) at the Town Hall, School Street and Moraga Road. We hope that many of our members can be present.

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IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to Shirley Medau for her many favors and gifts to us, the latest gifts being an accounts book from the Wayside Inn, numerous old pictures, clippings and newspapers and a wonderful old beaver top hat in an old Dobbs hat box. The hat was worn by Shirley's father-in-law, Gerhardt (Pat) Medau, in the Horseman's parade in the thirties. Pat Medau bought the Wayside Inn in 1922 and it has been in the Medau family until just last month when it was sold to the Assistance League for use as a thrift shop.

Thanks to Dolly Pfautch who has sold many of our post cards, books and note papers in her needlepoint shop on Hough.

Thanks to Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan which paid for the cost of printing our membership list which you will find accompanying this issue of the bulletin.

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SISTER SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

Orinda Historical Society will have its next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 8 pm, at the Orinda Library. Their speaker will be Father William Abeloe who will speak about the restoration of Mission San Jose of which he is now the pastor.

Moraga Historical Society will have its next meeting on Thursday, September 21, 8 pm, at the St. Mary's College library. Slides of the development of Moraga Valley will be featured.

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EXHIBITS

Two exhibits about the Sacramento Northern Railroad were assembled during the summer. One, at the Lafayete Savings and Loan, features pictures of the railroad and one which was at the library for the month of August featured small models of cars which ran on the line. The models were loaned to us by Warren Edward Miller, president of Moraga Historical Society.

The Christmas display will be one featuring nutcrackers. If any of you have some that you would be willing to loan for the display, please call Joan Merryman, 283-0659. Also, Joan is interested in borrowing any Lafayette campaign buttons that some of us might have saved for a future exhibit.

The fire engine, Old Betsy, has found a home, so she will be safe and sheltered during the winter. She was on display at the Concours with George Wasson, the Bil Plummers and the George Wilsons attending her.

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ORAL HISTORY

Effie Root Stahle was interviewed by Angela Broadhead. Angela reports that Mrs. Stahle came to Lafayette in 1904 when she was 13. Her family owned the Locust Farm which occupied 500 acres on both sides of Happy Valley Road between Redwood Lane and Crestmont Dr.

Lorelda Medau Read was interviewed by Joan Merryman. Mrs. Read is the sister of the late Alvin Medau. She was 18 when the family arrived here in 1922 to occupy the Wayside Inn. At that time the Inn had no indoor plumbing and the kitchen ceiling was a piece of canvas. Mrs. Read was in charge of the phone system here for a few months, ran a beauty shop for some months and worked in a candy store. She remembers that the purchase price at that time for the Inn was under two thousand dollars.

Helen Shank has typed a number of the Orlando Hough letters. The letters are a big job and we thank Helen for doing them. The letters are from 1862 and are the correpondence between Mr. Hough and his intended, a Miss Emmeline Bassett, who lived in New York. They corresponded while he saved enough money for her transportation to California. The letters will go into the file in the library.

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SISTER CITY VISITOR

A young college student, Michel Dumas from Langeac, France, visited our city for a few weeks this summer. He was taken on the walking tour by Joan Merryman, Jane Sherman and Chris Schreiber and was given some copies of our history of Lafayette for himself and the city of Langeac. The walking tour starts at the library, pointing out Elam Brown's lantern and Peter Thomson's anvil, continues up Moraga Rd. pointing out the bell tower of the Methodist Church which belonged to one of Lafayette's first schools and thence to the Plaza Park and the three plaqued buildings across from the park.

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WELCOME to new members Velather Weaver and Joy Parsons.